(c) optionally, a solid phase binding group or a marker group coupled to the spacer region.

2 ~~30.~~ The peptide of claim 1 ~~29~~, consisting of (a) and (b).

3 ~~31.~~ The peptide of claim 1 ~~29~~, consisting of (a), (b) and (c).

Sub C2 32. The peptide of claim 29, wherein the immunologically active amino acid sequence consists of 9-20 amino acids from one of SEQ ID NOs: 11-16.

5 ~~33.~~ The peptide of claim 3 ~~31~~, wherein (c) is a solid phase binding group.

6 ~~34.~~ The peptide of claim 5 ~~33~~, wherein the peptide is bound to a solid phase via the solid phase binding group.

7 ~~35.~~ The peptide of claim 5 ~~33~~, wherein the solid phase binding group is biotin or a biotin derivative.

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8 ~~36.~~ The peptide of claim 3 ~~31~~, wherein (c) is a marker group.

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9 ~~37~~. The peptide of claim 8 ~~36~~, wherein the marker group is a luminescent metal complex or a fluorescent dye.

10 ~~38~~. The peptide of claim 1 ~~29~~, wherein the peptide is bound to a solid phase.

SUB C3

39. A method of detecting the presence or absence of an antibody against hepatitis C virus, the method comprising the following steps:

(a) incubating a sample liquid which may contain an antibody against hepatitis C virus with a peptide consisting of: (1) an isolated immunologically active amino acid sequence from the hepatitis C virus consisting of 6-22 amino acids from one of SEQ ID NOs: 11-16; (2) optionally, an immunologically inactive spacer region coupled to the immunologically active sequence; and (3) optionally, a solid phase binding group or a marker group coupled to the spacer region; and

(b) detecting any binding between the antibody and the peptide, thereby detecting the presence or absence of the antibody.

1, 2 + 3

40. The method of claim 39, wherein the peptide consists of (a), (b) and (c).

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41. The method of claim 40, wherein (c) is a solid phase binding group.

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42. The method of claim 41, wherein the peptide is bound to a solid phase via the solid phase binding group.

43. The method of claim 39, wherein the immunologically active amino acid sequence consists of 9-20 amino acids from one of SEQ ID NOs: 11-16.

44. The method of claim 40, wherein (c) is a marker group.

45. A method of detecting the presence or absence of an antibody against hepatitis C virus, the method comprising the following steps:

(a) incubating a sample liquid which may contain an antibody against hepatitis C virus with two peptides P1 and P2, wherein at least one of the peptides P1 and P2 consists of (1) an isolated immunologically active amino acid sequence from the hepatitis C virus consisting of 6-22 amino acids from one of SEQ ID NOs: 11-16; (2) an immunologically inactive spacer region coupled to the immunologically active sequence; and (3) a solid phase binding group or a marker group coupled to the spacer region; and

(b) detecting any binding between the antibody and the peptides P1 and P2, thereby detecting the presence or absence of the antibody.

46. The method of claim 45, wherein the peptide P1 is bound or becomes bound

to a solid phase via the solid phase binding group.

47. The method of claim 45, wherein the immunologically active amino acid sequence consists of 9-20 amino acids from one of SEQ ID NOs: 11-16.

48. A method of detecting the presence or absence of an antibody against hepatitis C virus, the method comprising the following steps:

(a) incubating a first aliquot of the sample liquid with at least one first immobilized antigen which is specific for a first group of antibodies to be typed, to react the first group antibodies with the at least one first immobilized antigen, wherein the at least one first immobilized antigen consists of: (1) a first isolated immunologically active amino acid sequence from the hepatitis C virus consisting of 6-22 amino acids from one of SEQ ID NOs: 11-16; (2) an immunologically inactive spacer region coupled to the first immunologically active sequence; and (3) a solid phase binding group coupled to the spacer region, and the first group of antibodies is present in an amount which does not exceed the capacity of the at least one first immobilized antigen;

(b) thereafter, separating the first aliquot from step (a) from the at least one first immobilized antigen, and incubating the first aliquot with at least one second immobilized antigen which is specific for a second group of antibodies to be typed, to react the second group of antibodies with the at least one second immobilized antigen, wherein the at least

one second immobilized antigen consists of: (1) a second isolated immunologically active amino acid sequence from the hepatitis C virus consisting of 6-22 amino acids from one of SEQ ID NOs: 11-16, wherein the second immunologically active sequence is different than the first immunologically active sequence; (2) an immunologically inactive spacer region coupled to the second immunologically active sequence; and (3) a solid phase binding group coupled to the spacer region;

(c) optionally repeating step (b) with at least one further antigen or antigens, each of which is specific for at least one further group of antibodies to be typed, wherein each of the at least one further antigen or antigens consists of: (1) a further isolated immunologically active amino acid sequence from the hepatitis C virus consisting of 6-22 amino acids from one of SEQ ID NOs: 11-16, wherein the further immunologically active sequence is different than the first immunologically active sequence and the second immunologically active sequence; (2) an immunologically inactive spacer region coupled to the second immunologically active sequence; and (3) a solid phase binding group coupled to the spacer region, and in each repeated step (b) the at least one further antigen or antigens are incubated separately from the antigen or antigens in a previous step (b);

(d) optionally repeating steps (a) through (c) with a second aliquot of the sample liquid, wherein the sequence of antigens is different than for steps (a) through (c) conducted with the first aliquot;

(e) qualitatively or quantitatively determining the immunological activity of the